

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks.

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered and further request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks contained herein.

II. Remarks Regarding Restriction Requirement

On September 7, 2005, during a telephone conversation with the Examiner, claims 1-36 were elected in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Applicants hereby confirm this provisional election, and have cancelled claims 37-48. No amendment to inventorship is necessitated by this election. Applicants reserve the right to present the cancelled claims in one or more divisional applications.

III. Disposition of the Claims.

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 37-48 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 14, 15, 17, 22, 26, 27, 29 and 34 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge Examiner's designation of claims 1, 4, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 18-21, 23-25, 28 and 30-33 as being drawn to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 5, 10, 13-15, 17, 22, 26, 27, 29 and 34 are amended herein. All the above amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits of this case. Applicants reserve their rights to take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or an appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application.

III. Remarks Regarding Amendments to the Specification.

Paragraph 16 has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error. Applicants thank the Examiner for his astute recognition of this inadvertent error.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 14, 15, 17, 22, 26, 27, 29 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in being drawn to improper Markush groupings and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. (Office Action at 3.) Although Applicants believe that this language was sufficiently definite to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicants have amended the Markush grouping language in these claims and other claims having the same language per the Examiner's suggestion. Because the original language was

sufficiently definite, this modification has no effect on the claims' scope. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered.

Claims 2, 3, 15, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. (Office Action, at page 4.) Applicants have amended the language in these claims to correct typographical errors. Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in association with the filing of this response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any additional fees be charged to the Deposit Account of Halliburton Energy Services, Inc., No. 08-0300 for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,



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